

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Pending Claims

Claims 1, 12-35, and 42 are pending and directed to an isolated polypeptide (claim 1), a ligand that recognizes the polypeptide (claims 12-19 and 33-35), a composition comprising the ligand (claims 20-30), and a method for treating a cancer disease (claims 31, 32, and 42).

Claim 1 is the sole claim under examination at the present time. Claims 12-35 and 42 are labeled as withdrawn in response to the earlier restriction requirement. Applicants request the rejoinder and examination of claims 12-35 and 42 at such time as claim 1 is indicated as allowable inasmuch as claims 12-35 and 42 directly or indirectly depend from, or contain the same limitation as, claim 1.

Amendments to the Claims

The claims have been amended to point out more particularly and claim more distinctly the invention. In particular, claims 1, 12, and 31-33 have been amended to replace the term "antigen" with the term "polypeptide." No new matter has been added by way of these amendments to the claims.

Summary of the Office Action

The Office rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly lacking written description.

Reconsideration of this rejection is hereby requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Bristol for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative Rachel Mejdrich during the telephone interview of February 2, 2009. The remarks set forth herein reflect the discussion during the Examiner interview.

Discussion of the Written Description Rejection


Claim 1, as amended, recites an isolated polypeptide consisting of residues 600-1,960 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Applicants believe that the amendment to claim 1 overcomes the written

description rejection. Accordingly, Applicants request that the written description rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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